



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## HARVEST OF COBIA BY SPEARGUN OR POWERHEAD IN FEDERAL WATERS OFF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) clarifies fisheries bulletin NR02-017 released on March 22, 2002, about allowable harvest of cobia. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries recently readdressed the issue of the use of powerheads/spearguns to take cobia in Federal waters off the South Atlantic states (i.e., North Carolina through the Florida east coast). The conclusion was that it was the Council's intent to allow use of powerheads/spearguns to harvest the two cobia per person per day limit (regardless of the number of trips or duration of a trip). Such harvest is allowed, and the Federal regulations will be revised to more clearly express that intent.

Any questions on this issue should be directed to NOAA Fisheries at 727-570-5305.

To obtain information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave a message, and NOAA Fisheries will respond within one business day.

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